DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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ED
E.O. 12356
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
PLAINTEXT
PA/HO EXEMPTIONS

R316

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BC-COUP-DACKO 3 BANGUI

A LIBYAN PLANE WITH SEVERAL TONS OF ARMS HAS CAPTURED BY FRENCH TROOPS AS IT LANDED AT BANGUI AIRPORT, FRENCH MILITARY SOURCES SAID.

BETWEEN 880 AND 900 FRENCH COMBATS TROOPS WERE FLOWN HERE FROM THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF CHAD AND GABON, WHERE FRANCE HAS MILITARY BASES, THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN THE NEW LEADER ASKED FRANCE TO BACK HIS COUP.

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, THE 49-YEAR-OLD PRESIDENT, A COUSIN OF THE EMPEROR AND A FORMER ADVISER TO THE THRONE, CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH TROOPS ARRIVED WITH HIM.

THE TROOPS GUARDED A SMALL STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE WHITE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TODAY. THE STUDENTS WERE PROTESTING THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS KEEPING THE WHOLE CABINET AS IT WAS UNDER THE EMPEROR.

THEY CLAIMED MINISTERS, ESPECIALLY VICE PRESIDENT HENRI MAIDOU, BOKASSA'S PRIME MINISTER UNTIL FRIDAY, WERE ALL HI ACCOMPLICES AND SHOULD BE TRIED FOR CRIMES AGAINST HU

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